

REMARKS

I. Amendments to the Claims

Prior to entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-76 are pending in the above-referenced application. Following entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 3-76 will be pending.

Claims 1 and 2 are cancelled herein. Claims 3 and 5 are amended herein to be rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of independent base claim 1.

II. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter and Objections to Claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 9-72 and 74-76 contain allowable subject matter, and for the indication that claims 3-8 and 73 would be allowable if appropriately rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

As previously mentioned, claims 3 and 5 are amended herein to be rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of independent base claim 1.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 8, and 73 depend from and include all the limitations recited in claim 3, which is amended herein to be rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of independent base claim 1. As such, it is believed claims 4, 6, 7, 8, and 73 are now allowable and is therefore unnecessary to rewrite these claims in independent form.

Therefore, claims 3-76 are believed to be in form for allowance, and such indication is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang (U.S. Pat. No. 5,265,589).

Although the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejections, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled to permit the present application to issue. The Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these claims in a later filed continuation application.

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IV. Conclusion

For at least the various reasons discussed herein, it is believed that claims 3-76 are in form for allowance, and such indication is respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to inform the Examiner that a file audit is currently being conducted and it will be necessary to submit a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement subsequent to the filing of this Amendment and Response. The Examiner's patience is appreciated and the Applicant will notify the Examiner as soon as the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is filed.

A petition for a three month extension of time to respond to the October 6, 2004 Office action is hereby requested, making this Amendment and Response due on or before Wednesday, April 6, 2005. A check in the amount of \$1,220.00 is enclosed herewith to cover the fee for an additional independent claim and the extension of time fee. It is believed no further petitions or fees are due with respect to filing of this Amendment. Should any such petitions or fees be necessary, however, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 accordingly.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 5, 2005



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